

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 281305Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3626

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4018

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNRWA, JO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN REPRESENTATION IN UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION

REF: AMMAN 1853

1. JORDANIAN REPS WHOM WE HAVE OBSERVED AND DEALT WITH IN ADCOM OVER PAST FOUR YEARS (INCLUDING SEVEN ADCOM MEETINGS, PLUS SERIES OF SMALLER SUBCOMMITTEE SESSIONS HALD IN EARLY 1972) HAVE BEEN MIN RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT UNDERSECRETARY ABD AL RAHIM JARRAR AND INSPECTOR GENERAL MAHER NABULSI. THEIR REAL PARTICIPATION IN ADCOM PROCEEDINGS DURING THIS EXTENDED PERIOD HAS BEEN ALMOST NIL, SINCE THEY GENERALLY SAY NOTHING AND OTHERWISE HAVE NOTHING TO CONTRIBUTE IN FORMAL SESSIONS. WHEN IT COMES TO INFORMAL CONTACTS, BOTH MEN ARE QUITE JOLLY AND FRIENDLY ENOUGH, BUT THEY APPEAR MUCH LESS INFORMED, INTERESTED IN, OR EVEN CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND THEM THAN THEIR SYRIA, EGYPTIAN AND (SOMETIMES) LEBANESE COUNTERPARTS. BOTH TEND ON OCCASION TO DISPLAY BASIC PALESTINIAN, ANTI-HASHEMITE FEELINGS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB REPS AND CERTAIN WESTERN DIPLOMATS.

2. THIS BEING SAID, SAHOULD BE NOTED THAT NEITHER JARRAR NORR NABULSI HAS EVER RPT EVER DEPARTED FROM STANDARD GOJ OR ARAB POSITIONS RE UNRWA AND PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM. IN VIEW OF EMBASSY AMMAN'S ASSESSMENT OF PRIMIN RIFAI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ADCOM, STRIKES US THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE IS PRECISELY WHAT GOJ WANTS AND EXPECTS FROM ITS REPS IN ADCOM PROCEEDINGS. USG,

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OF COURSE, HAS TRADITIONALLY DEMONSTRATED ITS OWN OPINION OF

ADCOM'S USEFULNESS BY MAINTAINING ITS REPRESENTATION AT WORKING
LEVEL (ALTHOUGH WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK QUALITY OF US REPS HAS
GENERALLY BEEN ABOVE THAT DISPLAYED BY JARRAR AND NABULSI).
GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT04018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750109-0616
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975037/aaaaagac.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 AMMAN 1853
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <02 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN REPRESENTATION IN UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION
TAGS: PFOR, JO, UNRWA, (JARRAR, ABD RAHIM), (NABULSI, MAHER)
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006